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POTATOES: Maine's 2005 potato production was estimated at 15.8 million cwt (hundredweight), 17 percent below 2004 and the smallest crop harvested in the state since 1922. Maine farmers planted 57,500 acres in 2005, a reduction of 6,000 acres from the previous year. The December 1 forecast placed acres harvested at 56,500 acres, 1,000 fewer acres than planted. A late season and poor harvesting conditions in October conspired to keep farmers harvesting into early November and some acreage ended up being too wet for field entry. Yields averaged 280 cwt per acre in 2005, below 2004's record yielding crop, but above the previous five-year average of 276 cwt per acre. Maine's 2005 potato crop had a rainy start and a rainy finish. Cool, wet weather during the month of May delayed planting by two weeks. The crop was only 20 percent planted as of June 1, compared with last year's 95 percent planted and normal of 80 percent planted. Drought conditions during the summer put stress on the developing crop, but kept disease pressure in check. September rains bulked up potatoes, but made harvest difficult. Excessive rains hit mid-October, when the crop was only 80 percent harvested. Flooded fields delayed harvest at many locations, and growers were still digging into early November.

Results from the 2005 Potato Objective Yield (POY) Survey placed the average number of hills per acre for all potato varieties planted in Maine at 10,595 hills per acre, down from the 11,969 hills per acre in 2004. On average, growers harvested 8.6 tubers per hill in 2005, compared with the 9.3 tubers per hill average in 2004. Tuber quality was excellent, with the percentage of tubers grading out as US #1 (potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in US Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, AMS) above the previous five-year average across all types in 2005. Long white varieties graded out at 81 percent US #1 in 2005, compared with 69 percent in 2004 and five-year average of 65 percent. Further results from the 2005 Objective Yield survey will be published on January 12, 2006 in the Maine Annual Potato Size and Grade Report.

Potato farmers in **Massachusetts** and **Rhode Island** also battled wet conditions to get the crop planted and harvested, with near drought conditions during the growing season. The remnants of Hurricane Rita hit in early October, when harvest was 85-95 percent complete. Flooding was extensive and field entry impossible at many locations due to oversaturated soils. Massachusetts growers harvested 2,400 acres with yields averaging 260 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 500 acres and yields averaged 210 cwt per acre.

POTATO STOCKS: Maine potato stocks on hand for December 1, 2005 totaled 12.9 million cwt, 14 percent below

2004's December 1 holdings. Disappearance to December 1 totaled 2.9 million cwt, the smallest amount used/lost from harvest through November in recent history. Maine's processing usage (excluding chips) was off 17 percent from a year ago; the late harvest delayed 2005 crop usage by one month. Storage accounted for 82 percent of Maine's total production, above last year's 79 percent and the previous five-year average of 77 percent. Of the Maine stocks on hand the first of December, 53 percent were russets, 42 percent were round white varieties, three percent were long whites, and two percent were red varieties.

The 13 major potato states held 253 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2005, down six percent from last year and five percent below December 1, 2003, for comparable states. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 68 percent of the 2005 fall storage states' production, one percentage point above last year. Disappearance of 120 million cwt of potatoes is down eight percent from last year and 10 percent below two years ago for comparable states. Shrink and loss, at 14.0 million cwt so far this season, is down nine percent from last year and six percent below the same date in 2003 for comparable states. Processors in the nine major states have used 65.9 million cwt of potatoes this season, down seven percent from a year ago and nine percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 12.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year and 14 percent below the same date in 2003.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in **Vermont** during November 2005 totaled 207 million pounds, an increase of one percent from November 2004. There were an estimated 142,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during November, unchanged from the previous month, and a decrease of 2,000 head from the same month the previous year. Milk production per cow during November averaged 1,460 pounds, an increase of 45 pounds per cow from November 2004.

LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION: Connecticut and Maine **layer** inventories in November 2005 averaged 7.0 million birds. Maine was the leading producer of eggs in New England, with an output of 90 million eggs during November 2005. Connecticut layers produced 70 million eggs from all layers during the same month.

The total number of layers in the **United States** during November 2005 averaged 346.6 million, an increase of one half percent from a year earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.54 billion eggs during November 2005, up less than one percent from last year. Production included 6.48 billion table eggs and 1.06 billion hatching eggs.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2004 - 2005

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
Maine	63.5	57.5	61.5	56.5	310	280	19,065	15,820
Massachusetts	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	320	260	800	624
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	290	210	145	105
United States Fall Crop	1,039.7	972.2	1,022.3	952.3	401	402	410,253	382,525
United States All Seasons	1,193.3	1,108.2	1,166.9	1,084.8	391	389	456,041	421,639

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m. December 15, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, December 1, 2004 - 2005 ^{1/}

State	2004 Crop			2005 Crop		
	Production	Stocks December 1, 2004	Stocks as Percentage of Production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2005	Stocks as Percentage of Production
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
California	3,648	3,000	82	3,240	1,600	49
Colorado	23,791	18,000	76	22,292	16,300	73
Idaho	131,970	93,500	71	116,975	84,000	72
Maine	19,065	15,000	79	15,820	12,900	82
Michigan	13,650	8,000	59	13,920	8,300	60
Minnesota	18,920	13,000	69	17,630	13,500	77
Montana	3,551	3,500	99	3,434	3,300	96
Nebraska	9,288	6,300	68	8,106	5,700	70
New York	5,184	2,300	44	5,226	3,100	59
North Dakota	26,765	19,600	73	20,500	14,000	68
Ohio	1,080	200	19	2/	2/	--
Oregon	19,775	17,000	86	22,023	19,000	86
Pennsylvania	2,640	1,600	61	2/	2/	--
Washington	93,810	50,000	53	95,480	52,000	54
Wisconsin	30,450	20,100	66	29,050	19,700	68
15 STATES	403,587	271,100	67	373,696	253,400	68

^{1/} Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant the following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2005 totaled 24.7 million cwt.^{2/} Stock estimates discontinued in 2005. Source: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., December 15, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.FALL POTATOES: Number of Hills by Type, Seven Objective Yield States, 2004 - 2005 ^{1/}

State	Crop Year	Reds		Whites ^{2/}		Russets	
		Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre
ID	2004	4	16,372	13	12,747	259	12,628
	2005	5	13,665	9	12,740	265	12,502
ME	2004	6	12,598	77	13,495	62	10,012
	2005	7	13,005	66	12,240	79	9,007
MN	2004	34	13,649	18	11,700	82	12,601
	2005	44	11,272	8	11,011	94	12,589
ND	2004	19	11,435	58	11,134	68	12,007
	2005	20	9,540	40	10,516	101	11,938
OR	2004	3	9,585	19	14,917	79	13,995
	2005	3	15,278	22	13,727	80	13,879
WA	2004	6	17,155	26	16,739	146	15,306
	2005	5	15,184	14	15,193	167	15,009
WI	2004	11	13,513	41	14,554	68	12,559
	2005	15	15,501	33	15,319	80	13,119

^{1/} Based on row measurements and counts in potato fields selected for objective yield samples^{2/} Includes long white and round white varieties.SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m. December 15, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade, ^{1/} by Type, 2001 - 2005

Grade	Round Whites					Long Whites					Russets				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Percent														
United States No. 1 ^{2/}	83	83	77	85	83	61	73	62	69	81	75	77	61	70	74
United States No. 2 ^{3/}	10	11	11	8	8	20	19	19	11	11	15	16	22	13	16
Cull ^{4/}	7	6	12	7	9	19	8	19	20	8	10	7	17	17	10

^{1/} Percent of net yield – adjusted for field loss.^{2/} Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.^{3/} Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.^{4/} Potatoes not meeting the requirements for US #1 or US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.SOURCE: **Potato Stocks**, 3:00 p.m., December 15, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA**MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2000 - 2005 Crop Years**

Crop Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average											
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Market Year Average
	Dollars Per Cwt											
2000	5.80	5.45	5.50	5.55	5.60	5.50	5.90	6.20	6.80	7.30	7.00	6.15
2001	6.20	5.70	6.05	6.65	7.50	7.75	8.30	8.65	9.45	8.05	7.80	7.65
2002	5.75	5.45	5.60	6.65	6.95	7.10	7.10	7.45	8.10	8.15	7.40	7.05
2003	6.00	5.25	5.45	5.85	5.70	5.80	5.70	6.10	6.30	6.75	7.05	6.05
2004	5.90	5.15	5.65	6.15	6.35	5.90	6.55	6.60	6.95	7.30	7.40	6.50
2005 ^{3/}	^{2/}	5.90	6.25	7.25								

^{1/} Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.^{2/} Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price.^{3/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., November 30, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA**MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, November 2005 with Comparisons**

State	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production		
	November 2004	October 2005	November 2005	November 2004	October 2005	November 2005	November 2004	October 2005	November 2005
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	144	142	142	1,415	1,505	1,460	204	214	207
New York	651	650	648	1,410	1,550	1,485	918	1,008	962
Pennsylvania	563	558	556	1,420	1,550	1,500	779	865	834
United States ^{2/}	8,102	8,160	8,162	1,531	1,634	1,590	12,404	13,336	12,975

^{1/} Average number for month, including dry cows.^{2/} United States includes 23 major States: AZ, CA, CO, FL, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, VT, VA, WA, and WI.SOURCE: **Milk Production**, 3:00 p.m., December 16, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**VERMONT MILK: Prices Received, 2000 - 2005**

Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Milk Sold												Annual Average
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
	Price per Cwt												
2000	13.40	13.40	13.50	13.40	13.50	13.80	13.50	13.80	14.00	14.00	14.30	14.60	13.80
2001	13.70	14.30	15.00	15.40	16.20	16.80	17.00	17.30	17.90	16.40	15.80	14.10	15.80
2002	14.20	13.80	13.30	13.10	12.70	12.10	11.60	11.70	12.00	12.50	12.50	12.40	12.70
2003	12.30	11.90	11.50	11.40	11.50	11.50	12.10	13.40	15.00	15.80	15.50	14.80	13.00
2004	14.00	14.40	16.20	17.80	20.10	19.80	17.60	15.50	16.30	16.60	17.00	17.20	16.90
2005 ^{2/}	16.70	15.80	16.40	15.80	15.50	15.10	15.80	15.70	16.10	16.50	16.40		

^{1/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., November 30, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, November 2004 – 2005**

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ^{1/}		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ^{1/}		Egg Production from All Layers ^{1/}	
	November 2004	November 2005	November 2004	November 2005	November 2004	November 2005	November 2004	November 2005
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,890	2,970	2,942	3,023	2,277	2,316	67	70
Maine	2,679	3,964	2,737	4,024	2,083	2,237	57	90
United States	280,572	282,978	344,797	346,596	2,170	2,175	7,482	7,538

^{1/} Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.SOURCE: **Chickens and Eggs**, 3:00 p.m., December 22, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, October 2005 with Comparisons					
Product	October 2004	September 2005	October 2005	October 2005 as Percent of:	
				October 2004	September 2005
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	1,590	1,563	2,539	160	162
American Type Cheese ^{1/}	6,086	4,437	5,561	91	125
Mozzarella Cheese	4,654	6,052	3,575	77	59
Other Italian Cheese ^{2/}	666	1,069	1,033	155	97
Cottage Cheese ^{3/}	518	561	664	128	118
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	8,119	8,054	8,023	99	100
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	1,038	1,110	1,233	119	111
Milk Sherbert, Hard	322	283	186	58	66

^{1/} American type cheese includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack.
^{2/} Includes all Italian cheese except Mozzarella.
^{3/} Creamed and lowfat
SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: **Dairy Products**, 3:00 p.m., December 2, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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